

PATENT

Application No. 10/759,844
Attorney Docket No. 067575-5006-US***In the Specification:***

Please replace paragraph nos. 0003, 0019, 0030, 0038, and 0041 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

--[0003] Attempts have been made to provide fork-type racks having slots that are dimensioned to receive and hold the sport equipment within the slots. An exemplar of the prior art is U.S. Patent No. 5,906,304 to Baldacchino which shows a water sport equipment rack including a pair of planar members 10 having a plurality of slots 20, 21, 22 for holding water skis, wake boards, knee boards or the like. While such prior racks are configured to hold sport equipment in a particular location within a boat, the racks do not secure the sport equipment to the rack. In particular, the sport equipment may jostle or otherwise move within and/or fall out of such prior racks unless a strap such as a bungee cord or other means is used to secure the sport equipment to such prior racks.--

--[0019] FIG. 2 is a front perspective view of the sport equipment rack of FIG. 1 in an [[a]] open position.--

--[0030] A resilient gripping member 43 is disposed on a support surface 44 of each support prong 42, which support surface faces clamp member 35 as shown in FIG. 2. In the illustrated embodiment, the gripping member includes a series of lugs 45 extending from a strip base 46 of the gripping member that is affixed to support surface 44 [[ef]] and projecting upwardly toward a wedge surface 47 of clamp member 35. The lugs are dimensioned and configured to flex toward base 41 of the support member as is discussed in greater detail below. One would appreciate that one, two, three or more lugs may be provided and that the lugs may, but need not, be populated along the length of support surface 44. One will further appreciate that the gripping member may consist of a base strip provided that the base strip has sufficient resilience to conform to at least a portion of the contour of wake board 31 when the clamping member is in the closed position.--

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--[0038] In the illustrated embodiment, securing device 36 includes a securing rod 51 that slidably extends through support member 34 and ~~[[is]]~~ operably couples a securing lever 52 to clamp member 35. The securing rod may be in the form of an elongated carriage bolt having a bolt head 53 engaging a countersunk bore 54 at the base of auxiliary notch 49 of clamp member 35 and a threaded end 55 adjustably engaging a threaded pin 56 of the securing lever 52. Securing lever 52 includes a cam surface 57 that allows a user to quickly move clamp member 35 between the open and closed positions by simply pivoting the securing lever between the positions shown in FIG. 3 and FIG. 4, respectively. Preferably a spring 58 is provided between support member 34 and clamp member 35 to bias the clamp member toward its open position.--

--[0041] A method of using sport equipment rack 30 in accordance with the present invention can now be described. In operation and use, a user will place ~~[[move]]~~ securing lever 52 to the open position (FIG. 3). The user will then place a wake board 31 in one slot 50 and, if desired, another wake board in the other slot. The user will then move securing levers 52 to their closed positions (FIG. 4) thereby moving the clamp members 35 to their closed positions. As each clamp member 35 moves toward its closed position, the clamp member biases wake board 31 toward the corresponding support prong 42 such that the wake board contacts one or more lugs 45 of the corresponding gripping member 43.--